

Ryan

April 22, 1943.

Dr. G. W. Beadle
Stanford University
California

Dear Doctor Beadle:

Some weeks ago I wrote to Dr. E. V. Abbott of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Sugar Laboratory, Houma, Louisiana, asking him to try and find Neurospora crassa for you. He sent me some soil that had been previously steamed and which at that time showed a pink mold, which he thought might be a Neurospora. I put some of the dirt in tubes and found that within a few days a Neurospora developed. I had no trouble in getting pure cultures, which are now bearing perithecia. They are only nine days old so that the spores are not quite ripe, but I am judging from their shape and size that they are Neurospora crassa. The cultures look like N. crassa. I am sending you, under separate cover, a tube which ought to be bearing spores by the time it reaches you. If you should find this material of any use, and you wish to make acknowledgment, please refer to Dr. Abbott as donating the culture.

That man Ryan, who came to Columbia from your laboratory, is certainly a bright young man. He reviewed Zickler's paper on Bombardia lunata, published in Planta some years ago. Lindegren has never gotten up courage to give it a critical examination. I have a few students meeting once a week reviewing some of the work on reproduction and genetics of the fungi.

I have very little time to work on Neurospora, but we are making progress with Neurospora tetrasperma and heterocaryotic vigor. You know Lindegren once published a statement that in nature we would not expect to find a Neurospora fruiting. This sample I am sending you is just one of many instances that prove that he was mistaken. You ought to be able to get fresh cultures of N. crassa from almost any one of the mycologists or plant pathologists who work in the vicinity of sugar cane fields. This is certainly a southern species.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,

B. O. Dodge
Pathologist

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